## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

March 6, 2002 LB 1172

not necessarily a complication but a feature of the consider the student, perhaps hypothetical but perhaps not, who has no absolutely no money, no cash to contribute toward a The question is, what sort of educational public education. experience do we want that student provided? Should it exclude anything beyond the basic academic curriculum? I think that is an issue that you encounter when you begin the discussion of student fees. What I am going to do next then is talk to you about the details of the committee proposal, and I hope, maybe it hasn't happened yet, but I...if it hasn't, maybe soon it will, send you a sheet which details the specific elements of the committee proposal so that you can look at them and get a little more accurate representation than what I'll probably There are three, I think, themes that were remember to say. very important in the committee's development of a proposal, and these are important, I think, to outline the approach. them is that fewer fees in public schools are preferred to more I think that's a very important point that committee ... or position the committee has taken. Second, the committee was very interested in maintaining local discretion or local control on the fee issue; that there was considerable thought that what fits locally can best be determined at a local level rather than to have a statewide one program fits all. So the second one is local control. The third theme that I'll mention is sunshine. There should be public discussion and disclosure of student fee policies and reporting. One of difficulties we encountered is that in approaching this issue we had very little actual information available about what school systems in the state are doing. So those are the three main themes. Let me give you a little bit now on some of the details of the proposal. If a school adopts a student fee policy in compliance with this statue...statute, excuse me, it could charge a fee for participation or equipment, or students could be required to provide equipment or supplies so long as the charges or requirements do not impinge on a student's right to a free instruction pursuant to the Nebraska Constitution or The required policy that is mentioned; Nebraska statute. public hearing is required each year on the proposed student fee policy to include discussion of money collected in the prior year and use of any fee waivers. Policy, the policy must be approved by a majority vote of the school board and the policy,